

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 L-03 PM-04 CIAE-00

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R 111600Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9521

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1 7 8 2

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINS, PINT, MILI, TO, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN MILITARY OFFICERS IN TOGO FOR FRENCH
TRAINING

REF: A) LOME 1779 (NOTAL) B) LOME 1711, C) LOME 1703

1. PAO SMITH LEARNED THIS WEEKEND FROM UNIVERSITY OF BENIN (UB) SOURCE THAT THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 180 RPT 180 NIGERIAN MILITARY OFFICERS ("FROM COLONELS DOWN TO LIEUTENANTS") NOW AT UB FOR SEVEN-WEEK COURSE IN FRENCH. COURSE, SEVENTH IN ANNUAL SUMMER SERIES AT UB, HAS 350 PARTICIPANTS FROM SEVERAL ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES. IT BEGAN ON JULY 17, TWELVE DAYS BEFORE NIGERIAN COUP D'ETAT.

2. COMMENT: EVEN IF GENERAL GOWON HAD NOT RECEIVED ROYAL WELCOME HERE AUGUST 1 (REFTEL C) AND WAS NOT PLANNING TO EVENTUALLY RETURN HERE (REFTEL B), SO LARGE A NIGERIAN MILITARY PRESENCE HERE WOULD BE NOTEWORTHY. WILL ATTEMPT OBTAIN LIST OF COURSE PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

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